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Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 W
----------042584 250818Z /12
R 250054Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4491

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BENC, MX
SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS: MEXICO CITY SUBURBAN RAILROAD - UPDATE

REF: (A) STATE 196328, (B) STATE 177118, (C) MEXICO 7721, (D) MEXICO 7719

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
1. THE SECRETARY OF COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORT (SCT), LIC. EMILIO MUJICA, STATED RECENTLY THAT WITHIN A FEW WEEKS THE MEXICO CITY SUBURBAN RAILROAD PROJECT WILL BE SUBMITTED TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO FOR APPROVAL. HE INDICATED THE INITIAL PROJECT CALLS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THREE OF THE PROPOSED SIX LINES FOR A TOTAL OF 82 KILOMETERS AT A COST OF 18 BILLION PESOS. MUJICA ADDED THAT JAPAN, ITALY, FRANCE, WEST GERMANY AND SPAIN HAVE SHOWN AN INTEREST IN FINANCING THE PROJECT, WHICH ONCE APPROVED, COULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN FOUR OR FIVE YEARS, I.E. DURING THE JLP ADMINISTRATION.

2. PRIOR TO THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, A LARGE SPANISH RAILWAY MISSION (INCLUDED REPS. FROM INECO-INGENIERIA Y ECONOMIA DEL TRANSPORTE, S.A., FABRICA DE MAQUINARIA Y CONSTRUC-CIONES, S.A., EXPORTATION DEL SERVICIO TECNICO COMERCIAL DE BIENES DE EQUIPO, SERVICIO EXPORTATION MATERIAL
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FERROVIARIO, SPANISH NATIONAL RAILWAYS, GENERAL ELECTRICA ESPANOLA, STANDARD ELECTRICA, DIMETAL AND MADRID CONSTRUCTORA CIVIL) VISITED MEXICO CITY. MEETINGS WERE HELD WITH OFFICIALS OF SCT, THE MEXICAN NATIONAL RAILROADS (N DE M), MEXICO STATE AND FEDERAL DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS AND THE SECRETARIAT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND PUBLIC WORKS (SAHOP), THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WHICH WOULD PARTICIPATE

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IN AN APPROVED RAIL PROJECT FOR THE CAPITAL. PRIOR TO DEPARTING, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE MISSION STATED THAT THE SPANISH PRIVATE SECTOR WAS IN A POSITION TO INVEST $500 MILLION IN THE SUBURBAN RAIL PROJECT AND EXPECTED TO BID ON IT.
AND HAVE COMPLETED THEIR PROJECT PROPOSAL. THE HEAD OF N DE M ANNOUNCED THEREAFTER THAT THE PROPOSAL FORMULATED BY THE JAPANESE WILL SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR THE GOM DECISION ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE RAIL SYSTEM.
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4. COMMENT: GIVEN THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS IN THIS GAME IT IS A LITTLE DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHO IS ON FIRST, ALTHOUGH THE JAPANESE AND SPANIARDS ARE THE MOST VISIBLE. WHAT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, IS THAT THE GOM APPEARS TO BE SERIOUS ABOUT UNDERTAKING THE PROJECT OR PARTS THEREOF AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS A COMPLEMENT TO THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED EXPANSION OF THE METRO. BOTH PROJECTS ARE CONSIDERED NECESSARY TO MEET METROPOLITAN MEXICO CITY TRANSPORTATION NEEDS. ASSUMING ONE OF THE PLAYERS OFFERS ATTRACTIVE FINANCIAL TERMS, THE PRESIDENT, NO DOUBT, WILL GIVE THE GREEN LIGHT.

5. WITHIN THE GOM ITSELF, THE SCT NOW APPEARS TO BE THE LEAD AGENCY (SUBSECRETARY OF TRANSPORTE MIGUEL ANGEL
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BARBERENA REPORTEDLY HAS FINAL SAY ON ALL MATTERS RELATING TO THE FORMULATION OF THE PROJECT) FOR THE PROJECT, WITH N DE M PROVIDING ONLY TECHNICAL EXPERTISE. SCUTTLEBUTT HAS IT THAT A NUMBER OF N DE M OFFICIALS ARE SOMEWHAT DISGRUNTLED ABOUT THIS DEVELOPMENT. THE FACT THAT AN IMBROGLIO HAS NOT DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE TWO ENTITIES MAY BE BECAUSE THERE IS TRUTH TO THE RUMOR THAT LUIS GOMEZ Z., PRESENT HEAD OF N DE M, WILL BE DESIGNATED TO HEAD UP THE UNIT WHICH WILL OVERSEE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SUBURBAN RAILLINES. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. THOMPSON

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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